

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /174 W

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R 300850Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8079

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USEC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR

SUBJ: EEC OFFICIAL SAYS ASEAN NOT YET EQUIPPED TO
NEGOTIATE WITH EEC

REF: JAKARTA 10296 (1972)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO AFP STORY
DATELINED SINGAPORE REPORTED IN OFFICIAL ANTARA JULY 27,
EEC OFFICIAL TRAN VAN THINH SAID IN SINGAPORE LAST
WEEK THAT THE ASEAN NATIONS HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED
THE JOINT MACHINERY AND COMMON POLICIES THEY NEED
TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE EEC AND THUS MAKE POSSIBLE
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ASEAN-EEC ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS.
END SUMMARY.

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1. TRAN, DESCRIBED AS DIVISION CHIEF OF THE EEC'S COMMISSION FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, WAS IN SINGAPORE AS HEAD OF SEVENTEEN MAN EEC DELEGATION WHICH ATTENDED A TWO DAY SEMINAR ON THE EEC'S GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE SEMINAR, TRAN WAS ASKED IF THE EEC RECOGNIZED AND SUPPORTED THE EXISTENCE OF ASEAN. HE SAID "POLITICALLY YES, TECHNICALLY NO." TRAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EEC HAS HAD CONTACTS WITH ASEAN THROUGH THE "ASEAN BRUSSELS COMMITTEE", BUT SAID THERE WAS NO ASEAN ORGANIZATION AT THE "TECHNICAL LEVEL" THAT THE EEC COULD TALK TO. TRAN ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ADOPT A UNIFIED BARGAINING APPROACH TO THE EEC, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE EEC TO DEAL WITH ASEAN AND ALSO ENHANCE ASEAN'S BARGAINING POWER. HE POINTED OUT THAT MORE THAN 40 AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD NEGOTIATED SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE EEC THROUGH ONE SPOKESMAN ON THE BASIS OF A COMMON POSITION.

3. TRAN ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEMS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT ALWAYS SIMILAR, THEY COULD COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING PROCESSED EXPORTS WHICH COULD QUALIFY FOR EEC'S GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

4. THE ASEAN NATIONS SHOULD ALSO WORK TOWARD THE IDEAL OF EVENTUAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPING COOPERATIVE TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, TRAN SAID.

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5. COMMENT: DURING THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF, GOI SPOKESMEN, PARTICULARLY FORMER TRADE MINISTER SUMITRO, HAVE STRONGLY TOUTED THE PROSPECTS FOR ASEAN-EEC ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN TRADE AND TARIFF MATTERS. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS RELATIONSHIP, THE SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASEAN (SCCAN) WAS ESTABLISHED IN EARLY 1972 TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE EEC, AND THE ASEAN BRUSSELS COMMITTEE (ABC), COMPOSED OF THE ASEAN NATION AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS, WAS FORMED AS SCCAN'S LIAISON WITH THE EEC IN BRUSSELS. BUT IN SPITE OF HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN ABOUT THE

PROGRESS OF ASEAN-EEC TIES AND SEVERAL VISITS
BETWEEN ASEAN AND EEC REPRESENTATIVES, SOURCES
FROM EEC MEMBER EMBASSIES IN JAKARTA AND
OTHERS HAVE ADVISED US THAT ASEAN-EEC LINKS
HAVE NOT PROGRESSED BEYOND THE TALK STAGE, AND
THAT THE ASEAN NATIONS HAVE NOT COME UP WITH A
COMMON APPROACH TO THE EEC. TRAN VAN THINH'S
STATEMENTS IN SINGAPORE CITED ABOVE SEEM TO
CONFIRM THAT CONCRETE ASEAN-EEC ARRANGEMENTS
ARE STILL A LONG WAY FROM REALIZATION.
GALBRAITH

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